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Government Press

Alleged dismissal of employees in the Government Press for trivial faults.

* 237 Q.—Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Superintendent of the Government Press has made a statement to Government that fines are enforced when such cases justify, such as spoiling work, delay, loss of manuscripts, making a disturbance in the department, cheating, bad conduct, etc.; and

(b) whether, on the other hand, he has been summarily dismissing from service poor employees for trivial or no fault and, if so, why?

A.—(a) No.

(b) The Government have no reason to suppose that men have been dismissed without cause.

Alleged dismissal of Purushottaman in the Government Press for irregular attendance.

* 238 Q.—Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Kuppu Rao and Ramachandran, readers in the Government Press, were served with one month's notice for irregular attendance;

(b) whether their notices were cancelled later on and they were retained in service;

(c) whether the services of a temporary reader, one Purushottaman, were on the other hand dispensed with for similar reasons, viz., irregular attendance; and

(d) if so, for what particular reasons?

A.—(a) & (b) No, only Kuppu Rao was given notice. The notice was subsequently cancelled and his services were re-engaged.

(c) Yes.

(d) His attendance continued to be irregular.

Sale of unserviceable machines in the Government Press.

* 239 Q.—Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Superintendent, Government Press, sold some of the unserviceable machines in the Government Press to particular individuals instead of by auction; and

(b) if so, how many were thus sold and for what price since Mr. Gilbert became Superintendent and why?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Thirteen machines were sold for a sum of Rs. 6,557.

Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR:—"May I know, Sir, why these unserviceable machines were sold to particular individuals instead of being auctioned publicly?"

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The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"For the past two years the Superintendent has stopped the auctions of unserviceable machines on account of bidders forming a ring and proper prices not being offered, with the result that several machines could not be disposed of."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—"May I know from the hon. the Home Member what the original cost of these 13 machines was when they were purchased?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"The book value of the machines came to Rs. 5,486-6-0 and the value realized by sale was Rs. 6,557. So, we have gained.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"May I know the present market price of these machines; they were purchased for Rs. 5,000 and odd?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I do not know."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"Does the hon. the Home Member mean by 'book value' the original purchase value?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Minus depreciation."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"Has he satisfied himself that the depreciation has not been unduly inflated?"

The hon. Khan Badadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Government are thoroughly satisfied."

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABAPATHI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know the reasons why tenders were not called for?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"It is not necessary to call for tenders in such cases."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"May I know what the percentage of depreciation is?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I want notice, Sir."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA:—"May I know from the hon. the Home Member what prevented the Superintendent from sending these machines to Spencer's auction rooms where the best values are obtained, if he had no power to break up the ring of bidders, just as any other private individual does?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"The Superintendent has adopted a method by which the Government have gained."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—"May I know from the hon. the Home Member whether it is not the Superintendent of the Government Press that determines the value to be deducted on account of depreciation?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"The auditors are satisfied with regard to the depreciation."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"May I know whether there was any notice of auction in this case? It is simply stated in the answer that

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'instead of auction' these machines were sold to particular individuals. I want to know whether any advertisement was made in the gazette or elsewhere about any auction being held for this purpose?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:— "As I have said, Sir, this method was adopted only during the last two years."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Was the sanction of Government obtained before a change in the method was resorted to?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:— "I want notice, Sir."

11-15 a.m. Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I know, Sir, who are the particular individuals to whom these machines were sold?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:— "I have got a list of names, Sir. If my hon. Friend wants it, I shall read it. They are the British Army School of Education, Wellington; Messrs. T. M. Ratnasabhapathi Pillai & Sons, Mr. Heiniger, Madras, Mr. Brahmananda Rao, Mr. Ramaswami Chetti, Mr. Srikantayya, Mr. Nagabushana Mudaliyar, The Manager, City Printing Works, Royapetta, Messrs. Vinayagam & Co., Madras, and Mr. G. P. Moses, Nazareth."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA:—"May I know from the hon. the Home Member whether some of these machines bought here were sent to Messrs. Spencer & Co.'s auction rooms and sold for a higher price?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I do not know, Sir."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA:—"It is a fact, Sir."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Is there anything to compel Government to accept any bid, however low it may be?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:— "The Government have nothing to do with it. The Superintendent does it. It is left to his discretion."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I know how these purchasers were got at?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:— "What happened was that as machines became out of order, people have applied to the Superintendent for them."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I know how the people came to know that the machines went out of order?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:— "The Superintendent might have put it on the notice board."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Was it done, Sir?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:— "I should like to have notice, Sir."

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Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know from the hon. the Home Member whether the Superintendent employed agents to find out those purchasers ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I am not aware of it."

Labour

Employment of trained students in the Perambur Industrial School.

* 240 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government for the employment of the boys after they have left the Perambur Industrial School ?

A.—The Commissioner of Labour has been taking steps to secure employment for the boys and has placed some 18 boys in firms in Madras. He has recently stated that considerable difficulty is felt in the matter and has promised to submit proposals. They are awaited.

Police

Revision of the rules regarding the collection of subscription for police sports.

* 241 Q.—Mr. K. R. KARANT : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether the rules governing the collection and expenditure of subscriptions from the public in aid of the district police sports have been revised and if so, in what manner ?

A.—The question of revising the existing rules is under the consideration of Government.

Regulation of Betting and Gambling

Legislation to prohibit bucket shops.

* 242 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government propose to introduce a Bill to prohibit bucket shops in the province ;

(*b*) if so, when ; and

(*c*) if not, why not ?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Bill is not yet ready and the Government are at present unable to say when exactly it will be introduced.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know the reason for this extraordinary delay in introducing a Bill, which, I am sure, the Government realizes is very important and very urgent ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" The Government are as anxious as the hon. Member that the Bill should be introduced at an early date. We had to refer the Bill after drafting to various officers of Government. That has been done, and it is now being examined by Government. I shall hurry it up."

TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS